

Notes from December 21, 1999 Small Group Meeting

Present:

Steve Macaulay
Steve Ritchie
Patrick Wright
A.J. Yates
Kathy Kelly
Teresa Pacheco
Carolyn Yale
Perry Hergesell
Earl Nelson
Wayne White
Jerry Johns
Luana Kiger
Margit Aramburu
Patrick Wright
Lester Snow
Jim Monroe
Steve Hirsch
Tim Ramirez
Stein Buer
Marti Kie
Wendy Halverson Martin
Susan Ramos
Rick Breitenbach
Ron Orr
Steve Roberts, DWR Planning
Tracie Billington
Tim Ramirez

Steve asked Jerry Johns, SWRCB, about a decision on petition. Johns responded that they are working on the Natomas decision. Lester offered that he would be attending a San Joaquin Tributaries meeting this afternoon. Patrick Wright said he had been in contact regarding the water rights issues and the environmentalists are concerned with the equivalency issues.

Johns said the Board does not have to release draft copies of the decision before consideration, but does it as a courtesy. This allows corrections to errors and can make minor changes.

Patrick Wright wanted to know what standards are currently in effect? What is the Board doing with those numbers? What are the standards—the Delta Accord standards?

Steve Ritchie asked Hergesell if Department of Fish and Game is going to be unhappy with this decision. Snow said they had their first review last week. Alf had a number of questions.

Steve asked if the decision is going to be good or bad for CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Johns said it did not seem it would have a negative impact.

Macaulay asked what negative impact there would be from the Natomas issue.

Johns said the Natomas issue still is out. The biggest problem there is that they can transfer more water than the Board allows.

Snow said he was afraid that people have been so consumed with b2 and water quality that they have not focused on the decision

Kathy Kelly brought up the problem of recirculation

Hood Diversion - Rick Breitenbach

Wayne White was concerned that the NMFS wording had been changed. He thought Jim Lecky agreed to the use of the word "sufficient" which now was omitted. White would contact Lecky and get back to Breitenbach.

RB said the wording was changed per Mary Schoonover's recommendations.

Hergessell wanted to add on No. 1: steelhead and striped bass.

Governance - Kare Hansel

January 7th is the new deadline for comments.

Ritchie said we did not get Federal approval though we were told to accelerate. This is good enough to keep plowing ahead.

Grant Line Canal. Steing Buer

Presented a document which had not been reviewed and approved by the committee, but did contain his viewpoint.

There are three issues: deliver, water quality and the need for significant dredging.

Steve asked if we need to do some work on the preferred alternative.

Yale asked about the quality of the sediment

Steve Roberts said DWR has done studies and found it to be pretty sandy, but the quality is pretty good.

Steve asked where the Board and the Corps are

Snow asked if the regulatory agencies think this is doable.

Hergessell said Frank Wenette says there may be conflict with local landowners. Is it covered by the EIR? There is a problem of seepage to adjoining land.

Roberts said they have studied slope stability and liquifaction.

Stein: We have tried to cover it with 17 variations.

Tim Ramirez said there is a difference between studied done when the flows are manageable and when there is flooding. Susan Ramos said the modeling done by the Corps includes set back levees

Steve said CALFED must be linked with the San Joaquin Study.

Wright: All of the action is integrated.

Kathy Kelly asked about the ISI and Delta storage. What are the boundaries?

Steve: there are no boundaries. We have to be on our toes.

White: We need to get the GLC group together.

Aramburu: It would be better for recreation and flood control.

Macaulay: Has anyone talked with Alex?

Stein said he had spoken at length with him on Friday. He is pushing for 3 full ag barrier operating year round. He says the full impact on fisheries has not been proven.

Stein said there must be rework on fifth bullet on Page 4 of the Hood diversion piece; must reconvene the South Delta group; and just decide how do we comment to Machado.

Margit suggested adding flood control and recreation.

FY 2000 - Steve said this is something they are working on. Macaulay volunteered to get DWR info. Steve said he thought that would have to wait until they find out if they have the spending authority or if a Section 28 will be required.

Hydro Works

Earl Nelson said this was a chance for CALFED staff to be brief on hydro policy.

While waiting for Lester to return from his b2 call with David Maui, Wayne White brought up that he would like Reclamation Board to be involved. Macaulay would contact Pete Rabbon, Executive Director, of The Reclamation Board.

Wendy said that would be a VERY good idea since they had been stalled while trying to get Rec Board permits.

Kiger said Dick Daniel had been on a tour on Friday. She would like him to report to Small Group in EARLY January. The tour included rice production in the Delta and using it as wetlands. Allan Garcia was also along. Margit said he was very important player. Think it was something about organic rice farming on the Cosumnes. She said the organic type would work well for wetlands. She also said there was money.